

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Final Office Action mailed on November 27, 2006, within two months. Thus, Applicant requests an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1-13 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-13. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0086199 (“Champagne”) in view of Sherman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,636,897 (“Sherman”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Champagne generally discloses a data transfer system, wherein data residing in a first database may be mapped to fields in a second disparate database. Specifically, the Champagne system is limited to a program that automatically creates a field map defining how data should be moved and translated prior to being transmitted between a first database residing on a remote computing device and a database residing at a host. Champagne discloses a specific field identification protocol that provides a syntax for describing the characteristics of a database field (Champagne, paragraph 35). Specifically, the field identification protocol is limited to providing information identifying a category for the field and information identifying a property of the field.

Champagne generally describes a database synchronization process. However, the disclosed synchronization process only ensures that the data fields between two or more databases are mapped correctly. Those of ordinary skill would appreciate that “data” is a very broad term encompassing many types of information and originating through any number of means. Champagne is not concerned with the generation of data, in that it is of no consequence to the data mapping system as to what changes have occurred between two datasets.

Sherman generally discloses a method for synchronizing information between a client computer and a server computer. Specifically, the Sherman system enables a user to specify a subset of objects for synchronization, while excluding other objects not included in the selected subset. Sherman further discloses that the default state for the synchronization includes all objects, wherein a user may then select objects that the user does not wish to be synchronized.

Sherman is directed to the synchronization of folders within an email application such as, for example, Microsoft Outlook where email messages can be stored within a hierarchical structure (e.g., folders within folders, files within folders, etc.). Thus, Sherman is concerned with controlling a synchronization process to enable a user to define which objects (files and folder) to exclude from an automatic synchronization process. However, Sherman is not concerned with the application of a specific synchronization protocol and/or algorithm. In other words, Sherman does not disclose a specific means by which the system determines whether or not changes have been made to the data to be synchronized. As such, neither Champagne, Sherman, nor any combination thereof, disclose or suggest at least, “causing said host to calculate hash values to determine when a data change exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” as recited by independent claims 1 and 13.

Claims 2-4, 7, 10, and 12 depend from independent claim 1. As such, dependent claims 2-4, 7, 10, and 12 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne and Sherman as applied to claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 12-13 in further view of Boothby et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0049764 (“Boothby”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claims 5 and 11 depend from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne and Sherman does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Boothby does not teach or suggest the missing features. Boothby generally discloses a database synchronization system that enables a database residing on a first computing device to be synchronized with a database on a second computing device by providing a history file which is stored at each computing device. Boothby generally discloses a hash value that uniquely identifies a database record; however, Boothby is silent as to using a hash value to determine when a change to the database has occurred. Thus, Boothby does not disclose or suggest “causing said host to calculate hash values to determine when a data change exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” as recited by amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claims 5 and 11 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne and Sherman as applied to claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 12-13 in further view of Chen et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0049751 (“Chen”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 6 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne and Sherman does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Chen does not teach or suggest the missing features. Chen discloses a system and method for managing contact information within a contact management program. The Chen system enables a user to access his or her personal profile and update information within the profile; however, Chen does not disclose or suggest “causing said host to calculate hash values to determine when a data change exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” as recited by amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claim 6 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne and Sherman as applied to claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 12-13 in further view of Hunkins et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663 (“Hunkins”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 8 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne and Sherman does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Hunkins does not teach or suggest the missing features. Hunkins discloses a system for performing a synchronization process between two databases while maintaining the integrity of the data, however, Hunkins does not disclose or suggest “causing said host to calculate hash values to determine when a data change exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists,” as recited by amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claim 8 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

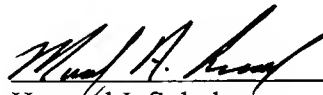
The Examiner rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champagne and Sherman as applied to claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 12-13 in further view of Feague et al., U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0013104 (“Feague”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Dependent claim 9 depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, the combination of Champagne and Sherman does not teach or suggest each feature of amended independent claim 1 and Feague does not teach or suggest the missing features. Feague discloses a unique pen that records pen strokes when a user uses it to write on paper. The pen can then be attached to a computer, where the recorded pen strokes are recreated on a computer screen; however, Feague does not disclose or suggest "causing said host to calculate hash values to determine when a data change exists and, causing said host to synchronize said host database with said form data when said data change exists," as recited by amended independent claim 1. Thus, dependent claim 9 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicant regards as his invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application. Applicant authorizes and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,

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